

BNSF

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VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL

November 15, 2004

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

NOV 16 2004

Part of
Public Record

Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 404X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company Abandonment between Blue Hill and Bladen, in Webster County, Nebraska

Dear Secretary Williams:

On May 15, 2003, BNSF filed a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service between BNSF milepost 87.02, near Blue Hill, and BNSF milepost 96.30, near Bladen, in Webster County, Nebraska, a total distance of 9.28 miles. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 68928 and 68930. The STB authorized the abandonment to be effective on July 4, 2003. The initial notice of consummation date was June 4, 2004. On June 1, 2004, the STB extended the notice of consummation date until December 6, 2004.

BNSF is in the process of scheduling this line for salvage. Due to scheduling conflicts with the salvage of various lines and the winter season upon us, BNSF requests that the consummation date for this abandonment be extended until at least December 6, 2005. This should give BNSF sufficient time to complete the bid, award and completion of salvage operations.

Sincerely,

Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.

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SLS/js

cc: James Gallegos
Richard Batie
Randy Acosta
John Sims

